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Laguna della Pita. *Hippoglossina sabanensis* from Rio Sabana. In this paper Dr. Boulenger seems to have abandoned his respect for the law of priority in nomenclature, to which he has usually shown a proper regard. There is no obvious reason for reverting to Mesoprius, when Lutjanus has priority and the sanction of large current usage. Nor is there any justification for using *Pristifoma* for Pomadasis. Naturalists must either use the oldest unoccupied generic name, or else abandon all rule and each one do as he pleases. The result of this line of action is the present confusion, from which the rigid application of the law of priority offers the only means of escape.

In the same *Bulletin* Dr. Boulenger continues the discussion of the fishes of Ecuador collected by Dr. Enrico Festa. The species for the most part are identical with those found at Panama. The following new species are described: *Pristifoma labraciforme* from the Bay of Ste. Hélène, Santa Elena, a species close to Poey's *Pomadasis ramosus*, *Hæmulon helenæ* from the Bay of Santa Elena, *Corvina miacanthus* from Guayaquil. This species belongs to the modern genus *Bairdiella*, *Heros feste*, from Rio Guayas, Guayaquil.

In the *Annals and Magazine of Natural History* Dr. Boulenger notes the occurrence of *Lepidopus* (or *Benthodesmus*) *atlanticus* at Madeira. The same species has been also recorded from Portugal under the name of *Lepidopus argenteus*. He also discusses the species of the genus *Callanthias* and describes a new *Anabas* from the Congo.

Under the auspices of the Department of Agriculture of the Cape of Good Hope, Dr. Boulenger describes two new gobies from the Cape, *Gobius gilchristi* and *Callionymus costatus*.

In the *Proceedings of the Zoölogical Society of London* Dr. Boulenger has a valuable review of the genera and species of Mormyridæ. In this paper stress is laid on the numbers of vertebræ, and these have been counted by means of the Röntgen rays, an interesting application of a discovery in physics to systematic zoölogy. D. S. J.

**Teeth of Lizards and Snakes.**—The structure and development of the teeth in lizards and snakes have been studied by Dr. H. Levy.<sup>1</sup> The outer enamel layer and the inner dentine layer are clearly distinguishable, and there is no transition in these two layers, as has been claimed for the lower vertebrates. In the development of the

<sup>1</sup> Levy, H. Beiträge zur Kenntnis des Baues und der Entwicklung der Zähne bei den Reptilien, *Jenaische Zeitschrift für Naturwissenschaft*, Bd. xxxii, pp 313–346, Taf. xi.

teeth no superficial germs such as Röse has described in the crocodile were met with, but all germs were, as in the higher vertebrates, deep-seated. In lizards, as in mammals, a dental ridge is formed; this gives rise to a double row of germs, from which the zigzag row of teeth in the adult are produced. The palatine teeth, occasionally found in the lizard, are probably formed from detached germs of this ridge. In snakes the roof of the mouth has on each side two parallel rows of teeth. The origin of these two rows was studied to ascertain whether they came from the same or separate dental ridges. At an early stage the snake possesses a single dental ridge corresponding to the outer row of teeth. Somewhat later two ridges are present, one for the inner and the other for the outer row. From lack of material the author was unable to determine whether both ridges came from the single original one or were formed independently. The dental ridges eventually break up and form small "epithelium nests," from which the germs of the later successional teeth develop. G. H. P.

**The Digestive Tract of the Cat.** — The morphology of the digestive tract of the cat has been carefully investigated by Dr. Franklin Dexter.<sup>1</sup> Most of the work was done by the dissection of properly hardened embryos, a method much more expeditious and certain than that of reconstruction from sections, but applicable, of course, only to the larger specimens. Dr. Dexter, however, is to be congratulated for having succeeded in dissecting embryos which in the hands of many would have been consigned to the microtome.

At early stages much of the large and small intestine of the cat is contained, not in the body cavity proper, but in the extension of this space into the umbilical cord. This condition has already been observed by Mall in the human subject and in the pig, and has also been identified by Dr. Dexter in the dog and the rabbit. It may be generally characteristic of mammalian embryos. In the cat, part of the liver even may be lodged for a short time in the cord, and the excessive growth of the liver is supposed to be the occasion of this extra-embryonic migration of the intestine. The return of the intestine to the body cavity is accomplished in an orderly sequence: first, a simultaneous entrance of the two extremities of the intestine; secondly, an entrance of the jejunum; and, thirdly, of the remaining portion of the ileum.

<sup>1</sup> Dexter, Franklin. On the Morphology of the Digestive Tract of the Cat. Reprinted from the *Archiv für Anatomie und Physiologie*, Anat. Abt. Boston, 1899.